

## **S.R. 12 Environmental Assessment Context Sensitive Committee Formed & First Meeting Held**

The Utah Department of Transportation has called together a diverse committee of organizations and individuals to examine State Route 12 (S.R. 12) and discuss potential improvements to the roadway with an emphasis on improving safety while preserving its natural and built environment.

Dubbed the "Context Sensitive Committee" or "CSC," members have begun to define concerns that might surround roadway construction activities between Escalante and Boulder in the coming decade. Based on previous studies of S.R. 12, UDOT is furthering its review of specific transportation needs in the project area, assessing potential impacts, and determining if an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or an Environmental Assessment is needed.

At this early planning stage, UDOT has formed the CSC of twelve individuals from different organizations and diverse points of view to help UDOT define the context and setting of S.R. 12 and determine the needs of the corridor.

Organizations represented on the committee include the local ranching community, bicycling community, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Wild Utah Project, Garfield County School District, Garfield County Travel Council, Boulder Town, Escalante City, Escalante/Boulder Chamber of Commerce, Utah Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.



The CSC met February 23, 2005, in Escalante, Utah and members were encouraged to open channels of communication between the project team and the communities they represent. Open dialogue between the project team and all interested parties was emphasized as vital in this study process. A summary of the topics discussed at the first CSC meeting will be posted on the project web site at [www.udot.utah.gov/sr-12](http://www.udot.utah.gov/sr-12)

In addition to the comments provided by the members of the CSC, the project team has received numerous comments from the general public. Those comments are welcome and will be considered in the overall study.

The S.R. 12 Project Team and CSC will next meet in April after comments from the general public are sought at two open houses. **The open houses will be held on April 20<sup>th</sup> in Escalante from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Escalante High School and in Boulder from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Boulder Town Hall. Advertisements regarding the open houses will run in the *Garfield County News* and the *Wayne County Insider* on April 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.**

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For more information regarding the SR-12 Environmental Assessment, please visit:

**[www.udot.utah.gov/sr-12](http://www.udot.utah.gov/sr-12)**

Or contact the public involvement team at:

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